

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

List of Claims:

1-29 (Previously canceled)

30. (Amended) A floor tile assembly comprising:

a plurality of mutually adjacent tiles composed of a substantially resilient, plastic material and mechanically interlocked along the side and end edges thereof for adhesive-free mounting to an underlying surface, wherein, each of said tiles comprises an elongated base of substantially solid rectangular cross-section of substantially equal thickness and having a longitudinal axis, an upwardly-facing top surface and a downwardly-facing bottom surface, and first and second substantially linear side edges forming substantially parallel borders, first and second rows of open-sided, substantially resilient interlock structures molded on said base extending parallel to and [inwardly of] adjacent respective ones of said first and second edges, the interlock structures of said first row facing in opposite upward or downward respective directions from those of said second row and each of said structures on said first and second edges being comprised of a male projection having sidewall portions projecting from its respective edge and a contiguous female cavity partially formed by a sidewall portion of said male projection and shaped substantially as an inverted image of said male projection, the open side of the interlock structure adjacent the first side edge facing downwardly in the direction of the bottom surface and disposed to

engage [a] an upwardly facing, mating inverted interlock structure of another adjacent tile from the top of said base [and], the second interlock structure of said second row facing upwardly from said second edges in the direction of the top tile surface, and a plurality of transverse stepped end surfaces, longitudinally spaced from one-another, formed on opposite ends of said base whereby the base edges are staggered in the longitudinal direction[.], and a decorative plastic layer adhered to the top tile surface of each tile and covering said first row but not said second row of interlock structures of a corresponding tile.

31. (Amended) The tile assembly according to Claim 30, [further comprising:] wherein said [a] decorative layer adhering to said top surface of each tile simulat[ing]es a section of a wood floor.

32. (Amended) The tile assembly according to Claim 30, wherein the transversely stepped end surfaces are formed by a staircase of individual steps, each step having longitudinal and transverse intersecting portions to simulate transverse staggering between individual boards of a wood floor.

33. (Amended) The tile assembly according to Claim 32, wherein the step staircase is positionally inverted relative to a central plane through said base and perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, and wherein each step has a longitudinally disposed diagonal counterpart step on an opposite base end.

34. (Amended) The tile according to Claim 30, further comprising:
a plurality of top longitudinal grooves, each groove aligned with a
longitudinal portion of a step and its opposite counterpart to simulate
longitudinally abutting edges of boards of a wood floor.

35. (Withdrawn from consideration by this Amendment)